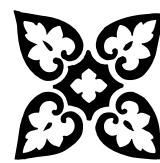




Mud Island Chronicle

News from the Garrison of Fort Mifflin



A Petition to the King IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1775

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty: We your Majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay, Rhode Island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, in behalf of ourselves and the inhabitants of these colonies, who have deputed us to represent them in general Congress, entreat your Majesty's gracious attention to this our humble petition. The union between our Mother Country and these colonies, and the energy of mild and just government, produced benefits so remarkably important, and afforded such an assurance of their permanency and increase, that the wonder and envy of other Nations were excited, while they beheld Great Britain rising to a power the most extraordinary the world had ever known.

Her rivals observing, that there was no probability of this happy connection being broken by civil dissensions, and apprehending its future effects, if left any longer undisturbed, resolved to prevent her receiving such continual and formidable accessions of wealth and strength, by checking the growth of these settlements from which they were to be derived.

In the prosecution of this attempt events so unfavorable to the design took place, that every friend to the interests of Great Britain and these colonies entertained pleasing and reasonable expectations of seeing an additional force and extension immediately given to the operations of the union hitherto experienced, by an enlargement of the dominions of the Crown, and the removal of ancient and warlike enemies to a greater distance.

At the conclusion therefore of the late war, the most glorious and advantageous that ever had been carried on by British arms, your loyal colonists having contributed to its success, by such repeated and strenuous exertions, as frequently procured them the distinguished approbation of your Majesty, of the late king, and of Parliament, doubted not but that they should be permitted with the rest of the empire, to share in the blessings of peace and the emoluments of victory and conquest. While these recent and honorable acknowledgments of their merits remained on record in the journals and acts of the august legislature the parliament, undefaced by the imputation or even the suspicion of any offence, they were alarmed by a new system of Statutes and regulations adopted for the administration of the colonies, that filled their minds with the most painful fears and jealousies; and to their inexpressible astonishment perceived the dangers of a foreign quarrel quickly succeeded by domestic dangers, in their judgment of a more dreadful kind.

Nor were their anxieties alleviated by any tendency in this system to promote the welfare of the Mother Country. For 'tho its effects were more immediately felt by them, yet its influence appeared to be injurious to the commerce and prosperity of Great Britain.

We shall decline the ungrateful task of describing the irksome variety of artifices practiced by many of your Majesty's ministers, the delusive pretenses, fruitless terrors, and unavailing severities, that have from time to time been dealt out by them, in their attempts to execute this impolitic plan, or of tracing thro' a series of years past the progress of the unhappy differences between Great Britain and these colonies which have flowed from this fatal source.

Your Majesty's ministers persevering in their measures and proceeding to open hostilities for enforcing them, have compelled us to arm in our own defense, and have engaged us in a controversy so peculiarly abhorrent to the affection of your still faithful colonists, that when we consider whom, we must oppose in this contest, and if it continues, what may be the consequences, our own particular misfortunes are accounted by us, only as parts of our distress.

Knowing, to what violent resentments and incurable animosities, civil discords are apt to exasperate and inflame the contending parties, we think ourselves required by indispensable obligations to Almighty God, to your Majesty, to our fellow subjects, and to ourselves, immediately to use all the means in our power not incompatible with our safety, for stopping the further effusion of blood, and for averting the impending calamities that threaten the British Empire.

Thus, called upon to address your Majesty on affairs of such moment to America, and probably to all your dominions, we are earnestly desirous of performing this office with the utmost deference for your Majesty; and we therefore pray, that your royal magnanimity and benevolence may make the most favorable construction of our expressions on so uncommon an occasion. Could we represent in their full force the sentiments that agitate the minds of us your dutiful subjects, we are persuaded, your Majesty would ascribe any seeming deviation from reverence, and our language, and even in our conduct, not to any reprehensible intention but to the impossibility of reconciling the usual appearances of respect with a just attention to our own preservation against those artful and cruel enemies, who abuse your royal confidence and authority for the purpose of effecting our destruction. Attached to your Majesty's person, family and government with all the devotion that principle and affection can inspire, connected with Great Britain by the strongest ties that can unite societies, and deplored every event that tends in any degree to weaken them, we solemnly assure your Majesty, that we not only most ardently desire the former harmony between her and these colonies may be restored but that a concord may be established between them upon so firm a basis, as to perpetuate its blessings uninterrupted by any future dissensions to succeeding generations in both countries, and to transmit your Majesty's name to posterity adorned with that signal and lasting glory that has attended the memory of those illustrious personages, whose virtues and abilities have extricated states from dangerous convulsions, and by securing happiness to others, have erected the most noble and durable monuments to their own fame.

We beg leave further to assure your Majesty that notwithstanding the sufferings of your loyal colonists during the course of the present controversy, our breasts retain to tender a regard for the kingdom from which we derive our origin to request such a reconciliation as might in any manner be inconsistent with her dignity or her welfare. These, related as we are to her, honor and duty, as well as inclination induce us to support and advance; and the apprehensions that now oppress our hearts with unspeakable grief, being once removed, your Majesty will find your faithful subjects on this continent ready and willing at all times, as they ever have been with their lives and fortunes to assert and maintain the rights and interests of your Majesty and of our Mother Country. We therefore beseech your Majesty, that your royal authority and influence may be graciously interposed to procure us relief from our afflicting fears and jealousies occasioned by the system before mentioned, and to settle peace through every part of your dominions, with all humility submitting to your Majesty's wise consideration, whether it may not be expedient for facilitating those important purposes, that your Majesty be pleased to direct some mode by which the united applications of your faithful colonists to the throne, in pursuance of their common councils, may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation; and that in the meantime measures be taken for preventing the further destruction of the lives of your Majesty's subjects; and that such statutes as more immediately distress any of your Majesty's colonies be repealed: For by such arrangements as your Majesty's wisdom can form for collecting the united sense of your American people, we are convinced, your Majesty would receive such satisfactory proofs of the disposition of the colonists towards their sovereign and the parent state, that the wished-for opportunity would soon be restored to them, of evincing the sincerity of their professions by every testimony of devotion becoming the most dutiful subjects and the most affectionate colonists.

That your Majesty may enjoy a long and prosperous reign, and that your descendants may govern your dominions with honor to themselves and happiness to their subjects is our sincere and fervent prayer. Signed by ORDER and in

BEHALF of the CONGRESS
John Hancock, President

PROVIDENCE, June 10, 1775

Sunday last the schooner PELICAN arrived at Marblehead from London and brought dispatches for GENERAL GAGE and ADMIRAL GRAVES which were immediately secured by the committed of safety and sent the Provincial Congress at Watertown. The contents of these have not yet disclosed.

Governor William Franklin's Speech to the New Jersey Assembly, January 13, 1775.

It would argue not only great Want of Duty to His Majesty, but of Regard to the good People of this Province, were I, on this Occasion, to pass over in Silence the late alarming Transactions in this and the neighboring Colonies, or not endeavor to prevail on you to exert yourselves in preventing those Mischiefs to this Country. . . . It is not for me to decide on the particular Merits of the Dispute between Great Britain and her Colonies, nor do I mean to censure those who conceive themselves aggrieved for aiming at a Redress of their Grievances. It is a Duty they owe themselves, their Country, and their Posterity. All that I would wish to guard you against, is the giving any Countenance or Encouragement to that destructive Mode of Proceeding which has been unhappily adopted in Part by some of the Inhabitants in this colony, and has been carried so far in others as totally to subvert their former Constitution. . . .

If you, Gentlemen of the Assembly, should give your Approbation to Transactions of this Nature, you will do as much as lies in your Power to destroy that Form of Government of which you are an important Part, and which it is your Duty by all lawful Means to preserve. To you your Constituents have entrusted a peculiar Guardianship of their Rights and Privileges. You are their legal Representatives, and you cannot, without a manifest Breach of your Trust, suffer any Body of Men, in this or any of the other Provinces, to usurp and exercise any of the Powers vested in you by the Constitution. . . . Besides, there is not, Gentlemen, the least Necessity, consequently there will not be the least Excuse for your running any such Risks on the present Occasion. If you are really disposed to represent to the King any Inconveniences you conceive yourselves to lie under. . . . I can assure you, from the best Authority, that such Representations or Propositions will be properly attended to, and certainly have greater Weight coming from each Colony in its separate Capacity, than in a Channel, of the Propriety and Legality of which there may be much Doubt.

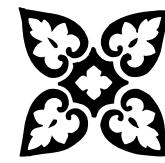
You have now pointed out to you, Gentlemen, two Roads one evidently leading to Peace, Happiness, and a Restoration of the publick Tranquility the other inevitably conducting you to Anarchy, Misery, and all the Horrors of a Civil War. Your Wisdom, your Prudence, your Regard for the true Interests of the People, too will be best known when you have shewn to which Road you give the Preference. If to the former, you will probably afford Satisfaction to the moderate, the sober, the discreet Part of your Constituents. If to the latter, you will, perhaps for a Time, give Pleasure to the warm, the rash, and the inconsiderate among them, who, I would willingly hope, violent as is the Temper of the present Times, are not even now the Majority. But it may be well for you to remember, should any Calamity hereafter befall them from your Compliance with their Inclinations, instead of pursuing, as you ought, the Dictates of your own Judgment, that the Consequences of their returning to a proper Sense of their Conduct, may prove deservedly to yourselves. I shall say no more at present on this disagreeable Subject, but only to repeat an Observation I made to a former Assembly on a similar Occasion. "Every Breach of the Constitution, whether it proceeds from the Crown or the People, is, in its Effects, equally destructive to the Rights of both. It is the Duty, therefore, of those who are entrusted with the Government, to be equally careful in guarding against Encroachments from one as the other. But It is (says one of the wisest Men) a most infallible Symptom of the dangerous State of Liberty, when the chief Men of a free Country shew a greater Regard to Popularity than to their own Judgment.

On Tuesday last, three battalions of this city and liberties together with the artillery company, a troop of light horse, several companies of light infantry and riflemen, the whole about 2000 marched out to the common and having joined the brigade were reviewed by GEORGE WASHINGTON who is appointed COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of all North American forces by the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, where they went through the manual exercise and firing with great dexterity and exactness.



Mud Island Chronicle

News from the Garrison of Fort Mifflin



By express which arrived here on Saturday evening, we have the following account of a battle at Charlestown, on Saturday, June 17 instant

On Friday night, the 10th, 1500 provincials went to Breeds Hill in order to entrench there and continued till Saturday, 10 o'clock, when 2000 regulars marched out of Boston, landed in Charlestown, and plundering it of all valuable effects, set fire to it in ten different places at once then dividing the army, part of it marched up in front of the provincial entrenchment and began to attack at long shot; the other part of their army marched around Charlestown, under the smoke of the fire in town. The provincial sentries discovered the regulars marching up their left wing. Upon notice given by the sentry to the Connecticut forces posted on that wing, Capt Nolton of Ashford with 400 of said forces immediately repaired to and pulled up a post and rail fence carrying the posts and rails to another fence and put them together as a breastwork. Capt Nolton gave orders to the men not to fire until the enemy was within 15 rods and then not till the word was given. At the word being given, the enemy fell surprisingly. It was thought, by spectators who stood at a distance, our men did great execution.

The action continued about two hours when the regulars on the right wing were put into confusion and gave way. The Connecticut troops closely pursuing them and were on the point of pushing their bayonets when orders from General Pomeroy for those who had been in action for two hours to fall back and their places to be supplied by fresh troops. These orders being mistaken for a direction to retreat, our troops on the right began a general retreat which was handed to the left, the principal place of action where Captains Nolton, Chester, Clark and Putnam had forced the enemy to give way and were before them for some considerable distance, and being warmly pursuing the enemy were persuaded to retire but the right wing by mistaking the orders, having already retreated caused the left, to avoid being encircled, were obliged to retreat also with the main body. The retreated with precipitation across the causeway to Winter's Hill where being reinforced by General Putnam, renewed the battle with great spirit, repulsed the enemy with great slaughter and pursued them until they were under the cover of their cannon from their shipping and floating batteries. When the enemy returned to Breed's Hill and the provincials to Winter's Hill where after entrenching and erecting batteries, they, on Monday, they began to fire upon the regulars on Breed's Hill and on the ships and floating batteries in the harbor.

As of this dispatch, the number of provincials killed was between 40 and 70 and 140 are wounded. Of the Connecticut troops, 16 were killed; no officers among them were either killed or wounded excepting the Lt Governor who was wounded in the hand. A Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel of the New Hampshire forces is among the dead. IT IS ALSO SAID THAT DR. WARREN IS UNDOUBTEDLY AMONG THE SLAIN.

The provincials lost three iron six pounders and some entrenching tools and a few knapsacks. The number of regulars which first attacked the provincials on Breed's Hill was not less than 2000. The number of provincials was only 1500 who would soon have gained a complete victory had not the unhappy mistake been made. The regulars were afterwards reinforced with 1000 men. It is uncertain how great a number of regulars were killed or wounded but it is supposed, by spectators who saw the whole action, that there could not be less than 500 killed. Mr. Gardner, who got out of Boston on Sunday evening says that there were 500 wounded men brought to that place the morning before he got out.

This account was taken from Captain Elijah Hide of Lebanon who was a spectator on Winter's Hill during the whole action.

PHILADELPHIA, June 19, 1775

Captain Coffin, who arrived yesterday from Nantucket informs, that Captain Waterman from this place for that island was taken by two cruisers belonging to the government and carried to Newport.

Extract of a letter date Hartford, Connecticut, June 5, 1775
Mr Hide of the Boston post reports that a vessel bound to London, on board of which Mr Robert Temple, a high-flying Tory, sprung a leak soon after her departure and put into Plymouth to refit. That the people took Temple prisoner and sent him to the camp at Cambridge, secured his papers, and opened a great number of letters many of which were from officers of the army at Boston. Those letters in general were full of complaints and expressions of uneasiness. Some for the officers desire to entreat to sell out, others say they fighting in a bad cause and apprehensive of a mutiny. Others mention a difference between the General and the Admiral and that the army, in general, is disheartened and uneasy. Other letters are full of invectives against the poor Yankees, as they all us. We hear the Provincial Congress will keep Temple as a hostage, but I hope they will let the vessel go with the above letters.

PHILADELPHIA, June 19, 1775

Extract of letter from Cambridge

The regulars, in the affair of Hog Island on the 27, at night, and the 28th, in the morning, had more than 200 killed and wounded, as I have reason to believe, while we had not one killed, only four wounded and not one mortally.

The cannon that we had there were amazingly well served, as is acknowledged by the regulars. The provincials in general seem to admire the kind providence by which our men were preserved, for the bullets flew amazingly thick. It is apprehended that this last affair has discouraged the regulars as much or more than that of Lexington, they being convinced by it that we have cannon and engineers. I heartily wish that all the colonies by a bold push would possess themselves of all the small armed vessels employed against them. This is, I believe, of great consequence, and would be attended with the best effects.

Extract of a letter from PARIS, April 11, 1775

Orders are given in all the ports of the kingdom that no ships to be freighted for the English colonies, signifying to those who do it that it will be at their own risk.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 5, 1775

A great number of ships have perished at sea and in the canal during stormy weather. Two English vessels are missing, one of which we are assured is sunk and the other taken by pirates.

STOCKHOLM, March 24, 1775

A plan of finance and commerce is just on the point of being published from which we promise ourselves beforehand the most advantageous effects. It is also believed that in consequence of another plan which appeared here some time ago and edict will soon be issued in favor of foreigners of all kinds of religion who are willing to come and settle here, and whom lands will be granted, also privileges for all sorts of manufacture and unlimited liberty of conscience.

BERLIN, April 18, 1775

Letters from Poland mention that a famine which rages there, occasioned by the vast quantities of forage that have been furnished to the foreign troops has brought on contagious sicknesses which make great ravages in PODLACHIA where in three day's time almost all the inhabitants of a village near BIALYSTOCK were carried off by it.

HAGUE, April 14, 1775

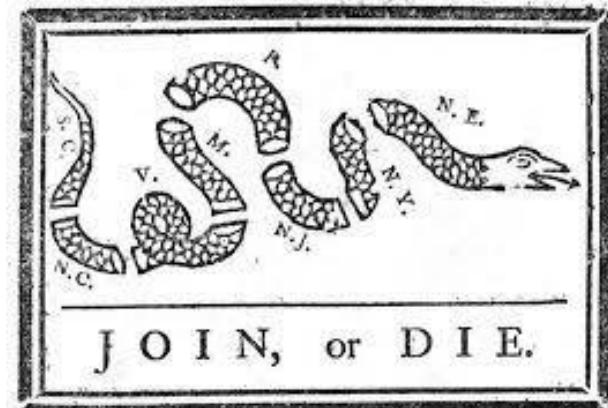
Advice is just received from Dresden that Imperial troops sent to bring the peasants in Bohemia to their duty have seized in different places near 2000 of them which has spread such a panic among the rest that there is reason to hope the tranquility of that kingdom will be restored.

ADVERTISEMENTS

WILMINGTON, June 30, 1775

The subscriber, having served for some years in a regiment of light dragoons, would willingly undertake to instruct so many troops as he could regularly attend to in the evolutions and attacks now in practice in the regiments of light horse of Great Britain and Ireland.

ADVERTISEMENTS



To all brave, health, able bodies and well-disposed men who have any inclination to join the troops now raising under General Washington for the defense of the Liberties and Independence of the United States against hostile and foreign enemies,

TAKE NOTICE,

THAT at the soldiers' barracks of Fort Mifflin, a recruiting party of the Continental Army will be receiving enrollment of such youth of SPIRIT as may be willing to enter into Honorable service of their nation. Incentive to enlist, is truly liberal and generous, a bounty of TWELVE DOLLARS, an annual and fully sufficient supply of good and handsome clothing, a daily allowance of large and ample ration of provisions, together with SIXTY DOLLARS a year in gold and silver money. Those who may favor this recruiting party with their attendance above, will have the opportunity of hearing and seeing in a more particular manner the great advantages which the brave men will have, who shall embrace this opportunity of spending a few happy years in viewing the different parts of this beautiful continent, in the honorable and truly respectable character of a soldier, after which, he may, if he pleases return home to his friends, with his pockets FULL of MONEY and his head covered in LAURELS.

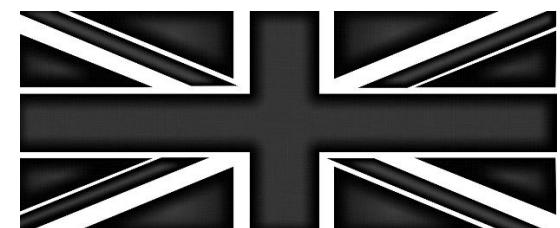
GOD SAVE THE UNITED STATES

To be Sold by the Regimental Brewmeister
at the Sign of the King's Broad Arrow

Strong Beer
Mead & Cider

Not inferior to English Beer, by the barrel, or by the glass, at the lowest prices for cash. The subscriber has opened a Tavern within the confines of FORT MIFFLIN ON THE DELAWARE where sailors, soldiers and civilians of all nationalities may safely be entertained.

MICHAEL CARVER



The publisher is compelled to advise all subscribers that GENERAL THOMAS GAGE, Commander in Chief of the British Army in all of North America wishes to advise all able bodies loyal subjects willing to serve in His Majesty's army and navy that he is paying a bounty of TWO GUINEAS for all new recruits to the new LOYAL AMERICAN REGIMENT. Those willing to serve for two years or the until the end of the current rebellion, if sooner, shall upon their being mustered and approved of by the Inspector General receive this bounty. Whosoever, is willing to embrace the present opportunity offered of approving their LOYALTY to the KING, let them repair to the CANNONBALL TAVERN at FORT MIFFLIN where an officer will receive and entertain them.